AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for assessing whether an individual has or is ~~susceptibility of~~ susceptible to development of systemic lupus erythematosus ~~in an individual to be tested~~ comprising comparing

(a) a test polymorphic pattern comprising at least one polymorphic position within an FcγRIIB promoter gene of the individual, with

(b) a reference polymorphic pattern derived from a population of individuals having systemic lupus erythematosus, wherein the reference polymorphic pattern comprises a C residue at position -385 and/or an A residue at position -119; and

(c) concluding whether the individual is susceptible to development of systemic lupus erythematosus wherein identity between at least one polymorphism included in the test polymorphic pattern and at least one polymorphism included in the reference polymorphic pattern indicates that the individual has or is susceptible to development of systemic lupus erythematosus.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the reference polymorphic pattern comprises at least one polymorphism.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the polymorphic pattern comprises -385 C/C.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the polymorphic pattern comprises -119 T/A.

7. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the polymorphic pattern comprises -119 A/A.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the reference polymorphic pattern comprises at least two polymorphisms.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the polymorphic pattern comprises -385C/C and -119 T/A.

10. (Withdrawn) An isolated nucleic acid derived from the gene encoding human FcγRIIB, wherein the nucleic acid comprises polymorphic position -385 in the promoter region.

11. (Withdrawn) A nucleic acid as defined in claim 10 wherein the sequence at the polymorphic position in the promoter region is -385C.

12. (Withdrawn) An isolated nucleic acid which hybridizes under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid as defined in claim 11.

13. (Withdrawn) An isolated nucleic acid derived from the gene encoding human FcγRIIB, wherein the nucleic acid comprises polymorphic position -119 in the promoter region.

14. (Withdrawn) A nucleic acid as defined in claim 13 wherein the sequence at the polymorphic position in the promoter region is -119A.

15. (Withdrawn) An isolated nucleic acid which hybridizes under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid as defined in claim 14.

16. (Withdrawn) An isolated nucleic acid derived from the gene encoding human FcγRIIB, wherein the nucleic acid comprises polymorphic positions -385 and -119 in the promoter region.

17. (Withdrawn) A nucleic acid as defined in claim 16 wherein the sequences at the polymorphic position in the promoter region are -385C and -119A.

18. (Withdrawn) An isolated nucleic acid which hybridizes under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid as defined in claim 17.

19. (Withdrawn) A kit for assessing the susceptibility of an individual to developing systemic layers erythematosus comprising sequence determination primers and sequence determination reagents wherein said primers hybridize to the polymorphic positions in the human FcγRIIB gene, wherein the polymorphic positions are -385 and -119 in the promoter region.

20. (Withdrawn) A kit for assessing the susceptibility of an individual to developing systemic layers erythematosus comprising sequence determination primers and sequence determination reagents wherein said primers hybridize to a polymorphic position in the human FcγRIIB gene, wherein the polymorphic positions is -385 in the promoter region.

21. (Withdrawn) A kit for assessing the susceptibility of an individual to developing systemic layers erythematosus comprising sequence determination primers and sequence determination reagents wherein said primers hybridize to a polymorphic position in the human FcγRIIB gene, wherein the polymorphic position is -119 in the promoter region.